

REMARKS

In the foregoing amendments, claim 8 was amended to depend on claim 1, and claim 9 was added to the application. New claim 9 depends on claim 3. Accordingly, claims 1-9 are now pending in the application.

Claims 1-7 were allowed in the outstanding Office action. Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by EP 0355345, JP 60-99773 or JP 57-77273. Claim 8, which was previously an independent claim, was amended above to depend from allowed claim 1. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 8 is now moot.

Since claim 8 and new claim 9 depend from allowed claims 1 and 3 respectively, applicant respectfully submits that claims 8 and 9 are allowable for the same reasons as claims 1-7. Therefore, a formal allowance of claims 1-9 is respectfully requested.

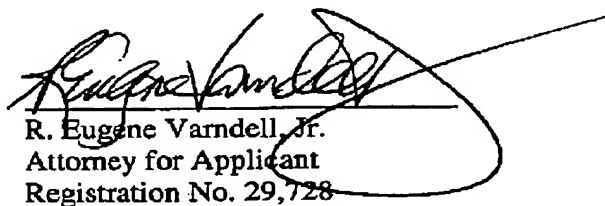
While it is believed that the present response is a complete and proper response to the Official action mailed April 5, 2006, should the examiner have any comments or questions, it is respectfully requested that the undersigned be telephoned at the below listed number to resolve any outstanding issues.

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Application No. 10/685,581
Attorney docket No.: VX032566

In the event this paper is not timely filed, applicant hereby petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The fee therefor, as well as any other fees which become due, may be charged to our deposit account No. 50-1147.

Respectfully submitted,
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